

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

L-02 SS-15 DODE-00 IGA-01 AGR-05 AID-05 /078 W

----- 046064

R 160025Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7772

INFO DEA HDQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4224

DEA HDQS FOR EOI - CUSACK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE USE OF HERBICIDES IN NARCOTICS ERADICATION

REF: MEXICO 2620; STATE 106468; DEA MEX 265 (NOTAL);
MEXICO 4155

1. AS REPORTED IN REF C., ACTUAL FIELD TESTING OF HERBICIDES IS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD WANT TO COMMIT HIMSELF ON WHETHER OR NOT GOM WOULD PLAN TO USE HERBICIDES IN 1976. AND IN FACT HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL WHEN HE READ HERBICIDE - RELATED POINT IN MEMORANDUM (WHICH SOUGHT GOM DECISIONS ON HERBICIDE SO THAT APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT MIGHT PROCEED ON TIMELY BASIS), PRESENTED TO HIM MAY 13 (REF D).

2. WE CANNOT NOW PREDICT WHETHER AG WILL HAVE MADE DECISION ON USE OF HERBICIDES BY TIME OF HIS MAY 22-23 CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY DUE TO CLOSE

PROXIMITY OF VISIT. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT USG CAREFULLY CONSIDER POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED SHOULD AG'S
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DECISION EVENTUALLY PROVE TO BE POSITIVE. AS STATED IN REF A,

THIS EMBASSY DOES WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY DECISION CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO GOM IN USE OF HERBICIDES. SPECIFICALLY, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO QUESTIONS SUCH AS WHO WILL PROCURE AND PAY FOR THE HERBICIDE. IN OTHER WORDS, WOULD OR WOULD NOT USG ASSISTANCE BE LIMITED TO PROVIDING THE HELICOPTER MODIFICATIONS AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR SPRAYING THE HERBICIDE? WE BELIEVE THAT JOINT DELIBERATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND EMBASSY BEFORE ANY SENSITIVE COMMITMENTS ON HERBICIDE ASSISTANCE ARE MADE TO THE GOM WILL MINIMIZE THE RISK OF REPERCUSSIONS AGAINST USG (IN THE US AS WELL AS IN MEXICO) TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

3. THIS MESSAGE IS CONCURRED IN BY THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE.
JOVA

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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